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Volume 2, No. 5 • February 17, 1995

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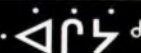
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The lodge is nearly finished: Sam Blacksmith proudly sits atop the beams as he puts the finishing touches on his winter lodge. October 1972

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Reading has always been a favourite pastime for me. I have tried to apply some of the good things I read in the many different situations where I needed guidance to see things in a positive light. When I hear people describe a town or village as this way or that way, this parable comes to my mind.

In ancient times, cities were surrounded by a wall to protect them from wild animals and conquering armies. At the gate there sat an old man who came to sell his goods. Every stranger who came to the gate passed by him.

A stranger from another city came by one day and stopped in front of the old man before entering the city.

"Tell me, old man," he asked, "what kind of people live in this city?"

The old man replied, "What kind of people lived in the city where you came from?"

The stranger answered, "Oh they were bad people, stealing from each other, unkind to strangers, and they only care about themselves."

"Well," said the old man sadly, "we have the same kind of people here."

The stranger went away to find a better city.

Later on another stranger approached the city gate and stopped in front of the old man.

"Tell me, old man," he said, "what kind of people live in this city?"

The old man asked him the same question as he asked the first stranger.

"Oh, they were wonderful people," replied the stranger, "always helping each other, sharing with those who were less fortunate and they were kind the each other." Come on in, friend," said the old man, joyfully, "we have the same kind of people here!"

A young man standing nearby had heard the old man as he spoke to both strangers.

"Tell me, old man," he asked puzzled, "why did you tell the first stranger there were bad people here and the second stranger there were good people here?"

The old man replied, "Each person will find what he is looking for. If he is looking for the bad in people, he will find it and if he is looking for the good in people he will find that also."

There are times when I hear how violence and abuse have overtaken our community and we should be concerned about this situation but I feel we dwell on these issues to the point of overshadowing the good things in our village. Our village is a place of giving and sharing. It is evident in the Christmas baskets that are distributed around the village, the Elders' Banquet, the many feasts among families and friends, the church socials and Christmas parties for children in schools and different entities. The open hospitality of the village is there for those who look for it.

Just as the strangers in the parable, when you come to our village, what are you looking for? If we dwell on the negative things rather than the positive, we become negative in all things.

Next time you visit our community, concentrate on the good things and come with a positive mind to enjoy yourself and the people around you. Surprisingly your attitude towards the community will change. I did at Christmas, and I have some wonderful memories stored away to share with you at a future date.

BY DOROTHY MACLEOD-NICHOLLS

CONTENTS

NEWS

5 WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
ROUTE DU NORD PROBE

7 PLAN FOR MORE DOCTORS
BUT DETAILS SKETCHY

7 BRIEFS + CANADA COURTS IRAQ,
KENNY GUNNER POWERS TO 1ST

16 NO ROOM AT THE INN?
RACISM CHARGE FILED

17 INUIT DYING YOUNGER
SUICIDES, TRAUMA SMOKING AT FAULT

COVER

10 WABIMEGUIL
ART IN THE FAMILY

INUIT

13 AAYAA
THE LEGEND OF AAYAAASAU

CULTURE

19 MARGARET CROMARTY
"YOUR VALUE TO OTHERS..."

SPORTS

20 NHL TEAM STANDINGS
PLUS: SCORING LEADERS

HEALING

21 IF YOU ARE ABUSED...
WHAT YOU CAN DO

COVER ARTWORK:

FANCY DANCER
PAINTED BY WABIMEGUIL, 1992
SEE STORY, PAGE 10

FEBRUARY 17, 1995

the Nation

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SUPER "BOWL" RESULTS: ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

I must start by saying that I'm not a great football fan.

I did get interested in last weekend's match from another standpoint. I had read somewhere that a peculiar phenomenon occurred during the commercial breaks of major games: abnormally high peaks in the amount of sewer flow.

Professional curiosity led me to attempt to confirm this.

On Saturday, a measuring device was installed at the main pumping station, near the Town Garage. Baseline measurements were taken to find out the average.

On Sunday evening, while others fretted over point spreads, I monitored the flow.

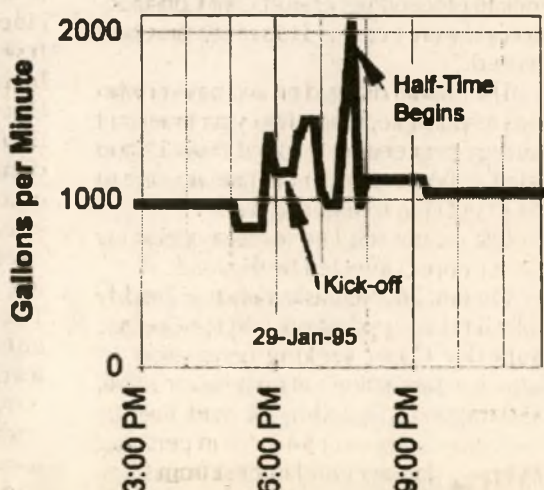
As you can see from the graph (on this page), the results show, quite plainly, that the myth is fact.

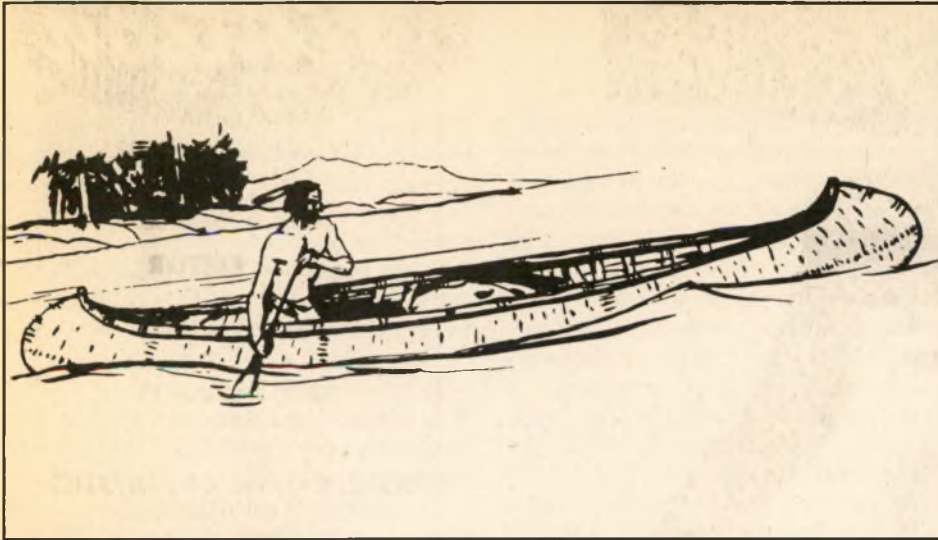
Was Tony Bennet well-received at half-time? It seems that Kahnawake voted with its pullchain!

Reprinted from the Feb. 3 issue of *The Eastern Door*.

BY ROBERT DEON

Super"Bowl" Results: Another Perspective





ROUTE DU NORD: A TANGLED WEB

The Route du Nord was a Godsend to many.

Benoit Bouchard, federal Minister of Transportation under the Brian Mulroney, got the feds to kick in 55 per cent of the funding to get this road built—a road Bouchard's Lac St-Jean riding had apparently wanted for years. The road was especially sought by the local forestry industry.

It also came to pass that the feds weren't as scrupulous when it came to an environment assessment study before handing out the cash.

The forestry operations foresaw the bonanza of easy access which the road would bring to new virgin territories. The sports hunters and fishermen saw virgin (at least to non-Crees) untouched sites opening up.

Cree Construction got a lucrative contract even as the majority of it was subcontracted to Beaver Asphalt and Paving. That benefitted the company's owner, a top fundraiser for the Quebec Liberals.

The Crees from the coast and inland no longer had to go through Val d'Or or travel by plane to see each other. Everything seemed all right.

Then a class action suit appeared and some people started looking at the Route du Nord differently. They began thinking that perhaps too many corners had been cut in making this road a reality.

Some provincial officials aren't happy with actions or lack thereof taken in the name of building this road. The Environment Ministry authorized construction on the condition that the proponent of the project submit a plan on monitoring social and environmental impacts.

The proponent of a project is normally responsible for ensuring

that environmental, safety and other standards are met. The monitoring plan was supposed to be submitted six months after construction began.

This wasn't done because no one could agree on who was responsible. Transport Quebec said Cree Construction agreed to be the proponent. Cree Construction responded by saying the Quebec government is responsible for doing monitoring plans.

Raymond Houle, a researcher for the environment department, said there were big problems getting the monitoring plan from the beginning. The department asked Cree Construction as the proponent for a monitoring plan. But Cree Construction replied in a letter that this was Transport Quebec's responsibility. Transport said no; Cree Construction is the proponent.

Houle told *The Nation*, "This is the first time we had a problem with the proponent so in this case we were patient. When we finally contacted the legal department to initiate proceedings against Cree Construction we were informed too much time had passed."

The dispute dragged on and on over who was responsible, until a two-year time limit on legal proceedings expired. Now it's too late for the government to take anyone to court over the monitoring plan.

But it's not too late for legal action by Cree trappers affected by the road.

On Jan. 26, Nemaska tallyman Freddy Jolly filed an application with the Quebec Superior Court seeking permission to launch a class action suit on behalf of about 350 trappers affected by the road. Freddy also seeks over \$48,000 in personal damages and interest from Cree

BY WILL NICHOLLS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

the Nation

INQUEST LIKELY INTO PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Police say it's likely the local coroner will hold an inquest into the death of a five-year girl on the playground of the Moose Factory Ministik School.

Michelle Martin, a senior kindergarten student, died in an accident while playing on playground equipment the morning of Friday, Feb. 3. Michelle had just finished her day in school. She went to her foster home across the street and afterwards came back to the playground with another child.

The playground structure in question was put up in October. It consisted of tree swing, a two slides and each section was divided by a walkway each with a different level.

A police report said Michelle attempted to cross over on the walkway and she may have fallen in between an opening between the levels of each walkway. She slid through the opening and her head got stuck. The cause of death was listed as asphyxiation.

Coroner Dr. Michael Bayer of the Weeneebayko General Hospital said it is likely the inquest will start following his preliminary investigation, which he is still conducting. "We don't want to rush into it because we want to get our facts straight and make sure we're not leaving any stones unturned," said Dr. Bayer.

"I'm not at this point convinced there was any wrongdoing on anybody's part and I want to be careful not to blame people who don't deserve the blame."

Dr. Bayer said if an inquest is done, it will make recommendations so incidents like this do not happen again. It will request answers from the school board, the Canadian Safety Standards Council and Henderson Recreation Equipment Ltd. of Norwich, Ont., the company that built the playground equipment. The inquest will also look at better supervision for children.

Meanwhile, the school is still trying to overcome the tragic incident. The school had support from different agencies to help students and teachers deal with the issue.

All the playground equipment has been dismantled and future equipment will have to go through a safety committee.

—Paul M. Rickard

Who WAS RESPONSIBLE?...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Construction, the province and Ottawa.

It is conceivable that Freddy's lawsuit could be broadened as new problems are uncovered with how the road was built.

Houle listed several problems with the construction. Gravel and river sites were not restored as required by Environment Quebec. The restoration was supposed to start when the road was finished in Nov. 1993. It didn't. The time limit for court action on the restoration of these sites is Nov. 1995.

Houle also confirmed some gravel pits were built too close to waterways, also possibly in violation of the law. Some old Hydro-Quebec pits were reused and others exceeded permit limitations on how much gravel could be extracted.

One question is how much of a follow-up was done to ensure proper restoration of the sites. The Chibougamau regional forestry bureau told *The Nation* it wasn't their responsibility to monitor the impacts of the road after it was built. The regional wildlife office said the same thing.

Furthermore, culverts (large drainage pipes) were used where usually in the south you find a bridge. The Broadback River got a bridge made partly out of recycling materials left over from Hydro-Quebec's construction days in the area. At least this was an improvement over the 28 or

so culverts that were originally planned.

Studies of the road's socio-economic impacts on trappers and on fish were never submitted to the government's satisfaction. At one point, legal action was recommended against Cree Construction by the Comex Committee, an environment watchdog at the provincial level.

Steve Bearskin, president of Cree Construction, told *The Nation* he was not aware of any problems associated with the gravel or river sites. He did admit to a problem with not completing a study on fish impacts but nothing else.

He also rejected Environment Quebec's assertion that Cree Construction didn't monitor the road's socio-economic impacts on trappers properly.

Bearskin seemed unaware that Environment Quebec had contemplated legal action against Cree Construction.

"The Route du Nord from the start was done while ignoring trappers' rights," says Francois Robert, Freddy Jolly's lawyer. "As a result it is now in court. Court proceedings were definitely considered as the last resort to resolve the trappers' problems. Their rights under the James Bay Agreement were ignored all along by all the parties involved. The more we look into the Route du Nord, the more we are convinced the trappers have solid grounds in their class action."



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An Elder in every sense

Letter to *The Nation*:

This is in regards to the September 9, 1994 issue of *The Nation*, in which you featured a story by my father, Daniel Rupert. You reported that he is 86 years old when in fact he is 78 years old. (He turned 78 in October 1994.) Maybe you foresaw that he would live to reach that age and more, and for that, we thank you. In my eyes, he is an "Elder" in every sense of the word, a word that should not be taken too lightly. A word in our Culture that is synonymous to words like: wise, knowledgeable, traditional, honourable, respected.

I appreciated you taking him outside of the community to talk to him because he is most comfortable, relaxed and full of stories when he is in his own environment, surrounded by Nature. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend you on the translation of his story. You really captured the way he talks Cree, the only language he knows.

Funny thing, when the issue came out with his picture on the front page, an employee showed it to him at the Northern Store, and he said, "I don't think I will take it, I can't read it anyway."

Keep up the good work! *The Nation* is very informative.

Margaret Fireman, Chisasibi

Ed. Note:

The article on the Senneterre traplines in our last issue had a couple of mistakes. It's Mary-Jane Moore (not Moar). Also, it's the Algonquins who claim that they were given the right to be on these traplines in a 1938 decree from the Chief of Obedjiwan.

The Nation welcomes letters to the editor regarding various topics of interest. The letters must be signed by the writer and include address



and phone number. Letters considered libelous will not be printed or will be severely edited. Letters printed are not necessarily the opinion of *The Nation*.



TIMMINS MEDICAL SCHEME SHORT ON DETAILS

The health board in Moose Factory is reacting with caution to a proposal by the Timmins Hospital to deal with a serious shortage of doctors in the coastal communities of Muskegowuck.

As good as the intentions are, the Weeneebayko Health Board is saying the proposal is short on details and leaves questions unanswered about who will pay for the plan.

The plan was introduced during a visit by officials of the Timmins and District Hospital to the communities in January to hear local concerns. They said they would provide more medical services to Muskegowuck, such as more frequent medical visits, and provide a choice for northern patients to go to Timmins instead of Kingston.

The Moose Factory Hospital is administered by Medical Services of Health and Welfare Canada, and is currently affiliated with Queen's University and Kingston General for medical services. Most Muskegowuck patients are referred to Kingston as part of a contract with Queen's University and the Kingston General.

As part of that contract, Kingston has to provide eight doctors for the Muskegowuck communities. Currently there are only four. This shortfall is what Timmins is proposing to fill.

Dr. Jean Paul Aube, chair of the Timmins Hospital, said the Muskegowuck communities fall within his hospital's region.

"We're not in a position to take over what Queen's University and Kingston General are providing, but complementing," said Dr. Aube.

Dr. Aube also said Timmins

doctors will fulfill the need for medical visits to the communities. Community members now see a doctor only once a month. The Timmins plan would also alleviate the waiting list of patients.

The Timmins hospital will commit to providing four general practitioners to visit the communities. It also wants to work closely with both the Moose Factory Weeneebayko General Hospital and the region's James Bay General Hospital in helping any way it can.

Fred Hunter, chief executive director of the Weeneebayko Health Board, agrees that it's a good idea. But he feels the Timmins Hospital's plan is "overly optimistic" and doesn't provide details of how Timmins will deliver and fund the services.

"I think they have real good intentions of improving physician coverage, but the problem is there's no long-term obligation by Timmins or the province," said Hunter.

He said Timmins needs to consider other factors before promising doctors, like Muskegowuck's relationship with Kingston, federal responsibility for health services and who will pay.

For one thing, Hunter is worried that Muskegowuck will have to pick up the cost for the extra services.

The Timmins District Hospital and the Weeneebayko Health Board are currently working together to establish a hostel for visiting patients in Timmins and hire a Cree translator.

The health board is set to do a study to look at how all available medical resources in the region could be utilized better to improve health care in the Muskegowuck communities.

BY PAUL M. RICKARD

SPEED DEMON FOUND OUT

Police couldn't catch up to Mistissini's Kenny Gunner who powered his way to two first-place finishes in skidoo races in January.

Kenny pushed his Polaris machine to a first-place win in the Ouje-Bougoumou sno-cross professional class race on Jan. 21. He was headed for an easy win in the next day's race too but machine trouble cost him time. Walter Capississit of Ouje-Bougoumou placed 5th in the Jan. 21 pro race.

A week later, Kenny was in good form again as he motored to a first-place win in La Dore's cross-country race.

Also on Jan. 28, Sydney Coonishish took first place in the Molson-O'Keefe/Chapais Skidoo Club oval course race in the 500 c.c. and under category.

—Nation staff

KASHECHEWAN GOES DRY

The Kashechewan First Nation has introduced a Peacekeepers Program to combat the overflow of alcohol entering into their community.

The Peacekeepers, made up of community volunteers, will have authority to inspect anyone for alcohol in all luggage and vehicles that enter the community.

Newly-elected Chief Oliver Wesley said he is pursuing this issue because of the growing community concern about alcohol consumption and related problems. "It's a direction from the community," said Chief Wesley. "The concerns of the community were stated before the recent Chief's election, that the community wanted whoever got in as Chief to work on this issue."

He said the Chief and Council will be enforcing a bylaw under the Indian Act which makes Kashechewan a dry reserve. "The courts recognize that our reserve is a dry reserve, and we can charge anyone and intervene where there is alcohol involved," he said.

Chief Wesley said in recent months people have been transporting alcohol on the winter road, which is very accessible to Moosonee's liquor store.

The Peacekeepers will only have authority within the reserve boundaries to search anyone coming into town through the airport and winter road.

The Peacekeepers will be working with the Nishnawbe Policing Service for

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

protection and back-up in incidents involving firearms or under any dangerous situations.

Currently there are 30 volunteers and the band is working on guidelines and duties for the Peacekeepers. This program will be organized in the same manner as the Peacekeepers in Attawapiskat, now in existence for two years.

—Paul M. Rickard

CANADA BONDS WITH IRAQ

Canada is cozying up to the world's most notorious human-rights abusers as a way of fighting a declaration on Native rights now being debated at the United Nations, says the Grand Council of the Crees.

Canada is leading the charge against the declaration by saying it will give indigenous peoples too much in the way of rights, said a GCCQ advisor in a *Montreal Gazette* article.

Canadian officials are apparently lobbying China by pointing out how Tibetans in China could make use of the

declaration to press for sovereignty. Canada has also lobbied Iraq by suggesting the declaration could be useful to the Kurds, victims of genocide at the hands of Iraq's army. Indonesia, which killed 200,000 indigenous Timorese people in the 1970s, is another country Ottawa is buddying up to.

A decade in the making, the UN declaration says indigenous peoples "have the right to self-determination," plus the right to own, develop, control and use traditional territories and get back confiscated or occupied territories.

"To not recognize us as peoples certainly denies our right to self-determination," Kenny Blacksmith, deputy grand chief, told *The Nation*. "Canada perceives itself as a champion of human rights. We hope Canada maintains some consistency," said Kenny, who travels this month to Geneva to counter Canada's campaign at the UN.

—Alex Roslin

SCANDAL SWAMPS PQ TROOPS

An embarrassing scandal has knocked

the PQ government on its butt and got a cabinet minister turfed out of her job.

Premier Jacques Parizeau got skewered in the National Assembly this month by opposition politicians accusing him of trying to influence a government-owned TV station's coverage of the PQ sovereignty campaign.

"This is the heart of the government's attempts to use every single lever at its disposal as a government to further its objective of separation," Liberal leader Daniel Johnson told reporters.

The premier's office acknowledged in late January that Parizeau's wife met the head of Radio-Quebec. They discussed the TV station's coverage of political issues.

And PQ vice-president Monique Simard also acknowledged that she had "informally" discussed with Radio-Quebec the coverage it could give the PQ's public hearings on sovereignty.

Johnson said Radio-Quebec isn't supposed to be the PQ's propaganda tool. It's not even supposed to report news since its mandate is to be an educational broadcaster.

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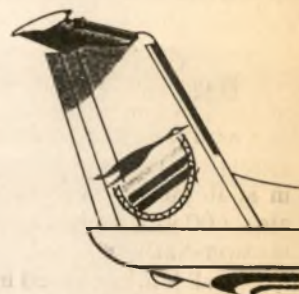
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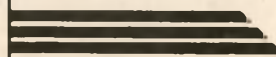
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AIR CREEBEC

The scandal cost PQ Culture and Communications Minister Rita Dionne-Marsolais her job. As minister, she was responsible for Radio-Quebec. Parizeau fired her after she tried to appoint one of her own fundraisers to head the TV station, a move that landed her in a whole heap of trouble.

After the firing, Parizeau took on the culture and communications portfolio himself, which means this mad bather now has three jobs—he's also Premier and Native Affairs Minister.

—Nation staff

\$15,000 FOR WEST COAST OUTFITTERS

The Hudson and James Bay Cree Outfitters Association has received \$15,000 from Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, reports *Wawatay News*.

The money is the last installment of a \$120,000 grant that first started flowing in 1990 when the association was created to help 14 Native goose camps attract tourists. The association helps publicize the camps, offers management training, helps with capital improvements and sets standards for the camps.

—Nation staff

MINE FEVER SWEEPS NORTH

Two massive new mining developments in northern Quebec will bring in \$640 million of investment and create 4,600 jobs in the short-term, mostly for non-Natives.

Metall Mining, based in Toronto, has announced it will spend \$150 million on its Troilus mine, in the Mistissini Cree Territory. The mine will produce 10,000 tonnes of gold, silver and copper over its 14-year life, starting in 1997. The Mistissini First Nation is to receive \$1 million over 10 years from Metall.

Falconbridge Ltd., also of Toronto, plans to spend \$486 million on the Raglan nickel and copper mine near Kuujuaq. Under a deal signed with Makivik Corp., the Inuit will receive \$14 million in guaranteed payments and up to \$61 million more in profit-sharing over an 18-year period from this mine.

—Nation staff

SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE ELECTS HORN

Congratulations to Kahn-Tineta Horn on her recent election as president of



the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native People.

The organization, set up in 1960 and originally called the Indian-Eskimo Association, has 3,000 members across Canada. At its latest annual meeting, CASP members voted to support the rights of First Nations in Quebec in the face of the PQ's big sovereignty push.

Kahn-Tineta Horn is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake. She took part in the 1962 Conference on Indian Poverty in Washington, D.C. and the blocking of the Canada-U.S. bridge at Akwesasne in 1968. She was also behind the razor wires at Oka in 1990 and was fired from her 20-year job at Indian Affairs as a result. She has four daughters and one grandchild.

—Alex Roslin

LASAGNA BACK IN COURT

Mohawk Warrior Ron "Lasagna" Cross is back in court, but this time on his own terms.

Cross has filed a police ethics complaint against five SQ officers for a brutal beating he (allegedly) received at their hands on Sept. 26, 1990. That's the day Mohawks evacuated the Treatment Centre in Kanehsatake putting an end to the 78-day Oka/SQ crisis.

At the Quebec police ethics commission, Cross testified he was beaten on three separate occasions—in an army tent, in an SQ squad car and at Montreal's Parthenais Prison.

An SQ lawyer tried to shake Cross's testimony by suggesting he turned his

face into one of the oncoming punches. "Was it to make them madder, eh?" asked the lawyer.

After he was captured, Cross was handcuffed in an army tent and approached by a 210-pound SQ officer wearing a helmet. "Lasagna, you're not too brave now, are you?" he said. Cross testified that the officer kicked him in the face and ribs.

Once on the road to Montreal, another officer sat in the back of the car with Cross and (allegedly) beat him the whole way, smashing his head against the window. Once at Parthenais, Cross claims officers took turns beating him for six hours—from 9 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Cross's testimony is described in a press release from the Mohawk Nation News Service, based in Kahnawake.

—Nation staff

HOPES FOR NUNAVIK ASSEMBLY

The Inuit of Nunavik are galloping ahead toward a self-government deal with the Quebec government, reports *Nunatsiaq News*.

The Inuit are refusing to talk sovereignty but other issues are still on the table. An agreement-in-principle is expected by the end of April. The Inuit in Nunavik want their entities consolidated under one unified Nunavik Assembly with responsibility for education, social services, land management, justice and administration.

For these demands to be met, amendments will be needed to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

—Nation staff

"Along the way you never do anything alone. People come and tell you things when it is necessary for you to learn them... The Great Spirit has many ways of helping you evolve."



"I was looking for something meaningful to a woman spiritually and I'm hoping in a sense that I can connect with other women at that level."

BETTY ALBERT LINCZ a.k.a. Wabimeguil (which means White Feather) is an amazing artist. It's unfortunate *The Nation* isn't in colour so you could see the full glory of her work.

I found her name for the first time on the Worldwide Web, a sort of computer bulletin board that is amazing. Amazing because it could download graphics with enough quality to give me an idea of this artist's potential. Some Crees have already seen her work hung up in such places as the Grand Council/CRA and Cree School Board offices, and others are lucky enough to have them at home. Her inner beauty shines through in the images that live on the canvas she paints.

Betty only recently discovered her birthright as a Cree. She

was adopted and brought up by non-Native parents. For a recent artist, she has demonstrated that talent is appreciated and valued by Native people. Her paintings can be found all across the Americas. Not bad for a slow start that began only five years ago.

This was one fun interview. It was like a homecoming as I discovered that in my far-distant youth back in Moose Factory we had known Betty's father, Lindy Loutitt. More than a few readers will remember him from his days as a pilot for Austin Airways. I'm glad to say he is the same as always. A talkative down-to-earth man who would join in the interview at times. His section is in italics. I hope you enjoy reading this interview as much as I enjoyed doing it.

—WILLIAM NICHOLLS

WABIMEGUIL SERIOUS AT LAST

INTERVIEW BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

The Nation: When did you start doing art?

Betty: I've always done art in one form or another but I didn't take it seriously until a few years ago. Then something very wonderful happened in my life. I met my father, Lindy. You see I was adopted. He saw my art and at that time I was in a bit of an unstable situation. I had recently separated and was starting a new life. My father told me, "You don't have to try and find a job. You can make your art work for you." So he took it and started marketing my art. That was four years ago. That's when I became more serious about my art in that I started to make a living at it.

Most artists go through what they call the starvation period or hard times. How has it been for you?

Lindy, her father: We were living in a ditch! (laughter)

Betty: I had to get a job in between working for the Tribal Council in Timmins. I had contracts working for them for two years and I would paint when I got home. We barely survived and eventually sales started happening. It began with one print, all that we could afford. We kept re-investing the money into the art, one print became five prints in a year. Then we started getting sold-out editions. It grew... blossomed from that point on.

With your father marketing your art, that's a rather strong measure of support. Has the family always supported your art this way?

No. I've been fortunate to have two lives. My first life... I'm not visibly Indian with my mother's green eyes but I have a darn good tan in the summer (laughter)... I was adopted and never knew I was Indian until five years ago. It happened while I was undergoing a separation with my husband and decided to go back to university.

I needed to send them a baptismal certificate because I lost my birth certificate. When I went to see the priest he told me I had two. I told him it wasn't unusual as I was adopted. When he showed me the original document I got my mother's name. Within two weeks I met her and my sister. They told me about my father who was an Indian. It turned out I was a wannabe who was (laughter)... I met Lindy about a year later just when my situation was being very difficult. That's when I and my children moved in with him in Toronto.

After about six months we moved to the Wahgoshig reserve where he had been a Chief for five years. I started taking my art



"Somewhere along the line you learn we have such tremendous power within us. If you search you'll find the guidance is there within you."

more seriously there. Before, I never felt I had permission to be an artist. I could always do it naturally because Lindy is an artist so maybe I inherited it. Before this I never knew you could take art seriously and make a living at it. It just seemed like it was another world all together. So it had been just a hobby for me and when I met him, he very strongly insisted that I learn to take this more seriously. That's when we started our art business.

Would you recommend this to people as a career or do you think it requires a certain type of person to make it a career?

I don't know what kind of people but I know you need support and you need people around you that'll help you along the way. There is so much to learn in this business and I was fortunate because I had my father. He was able to market it but I have to tell you the most difficult thing an artist has to do is market their own art. You have to have someone else who has faith in you and confidence in your ability. It's hard for you and takes a lot of courage.

As a career I've found it satisfying. As an artist you have it within you and doing anything else can make your life awful miserable. There's a certain personality type that I think you're born into. I myself was never happy until I took my art seriously.

Basically then you feel that it has fulfilled some part of you?

Absolutely. It was a fight every Monday morning to go to work because it was all I wanted to do. I had this great passion that was expressed in my art. I realized I had to go to work but I knew I was working towards not having to do that anymore. I was dreaming of the day when I could just paint and do it for a living. I never regret that decision to take it seriously because it has been the most fulfilling thing, the most exciting and challenging career for me.

I think when you are an artist the Creator brings people to you who will help you along the way but it requires that decision to take it seriously. Once you do that there is something set in motion. It's metaphysical, inexplicable... you just have to trust because it is a gift.

It's like all this cave art, it's just being discovered that people didn't live in those caves because it's very uncomfortable so that's where they did their spiritual ceremonies. For me art is like that, a very spiritual thing. Art and spirituality go hand-in-hand.

Actually that is one of my questions. Your art seems bound in spirituality. How did they come together so well?

When you're seeking within yourself the truth you take a spiritual path to the truth. That's what I was doing all along. Trying to find something spiritual and meaningful in my life. That progressed as I took the art seriously. I wanted to remain truthful in all ways because I needed to express something that came from me. A point of reference from deep within me. I didn't want to do a photograph and paint it, that's a point of reference outside of myself. That wasn't what I wanted, I wanted a deep meaningful truth to emerge. In the process I dismantled a lot of things about myself and my spirituality.

I am a woman and I understand that—what being a woman is.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

WABIMEGUIL...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

That's another point of reference I developed in my spirituality.

So you feel your art has helped with your spiritual growth and yourself as a person?

Yes. It's continuing and developing, and I'm doing so at the same time. My art is the vehicle. My art is a progression of my spiritual growth. It's a picture of how I feel spiritually within and I have to tell you that the art is alive. The canvas becomes alive.

We made a bit of a mistake because we travel so much. We shrink-wrapped the paintings to protect them. Somehow we stopped selling. Our work wasn't selling anymore. It dawned on me through dreams that I remember you can't wrap the art. That it's alive and it needs to breathe. We took the wrapping off and things changed. So it's alive, what I do, it's living. It's also my personal biography of my growth.

The first series I've seen on the World-wide Web featured the moons. Why did you choose that motif and where do you hope to go from there?

I was looking for something meaningful to a woman spiritually and I'm hoping in a sense that I can connect with other women at that level. Men too, on their feminine side.

Along the way you never do anything alone. People come and tell you things when it is necessary for you to learn them. Knowledge and helpers come in many different forms. It can be people just dropping in and telling you what you need to hear or it can come even through a movie where you learn something moral or significant, books, something you read at the right time to help you grow. The Great Spirit has many ways of helping you evolve.

The moon came through an author I've been reading for several years now. This woman has been very significant. What she is doing with her books is what I am trying to do with my art. To give a strong message. The moons are based on her interpretations of her people.

Who is this influence?

Janie Sand. *The Thirteen Clan Mothers* was a good book for me on these Seneca teachings. She's learning a lot and sharing that through her written word.

Have there been other spiritual influences, Elders, conferences?

Yes. I've met spiritual medicine people. They've come to our home and talked. It's been really motivating for me. Somewhere along the line you learn we have such tremendous power within us. If you search you'll find the guidance is there within you. I'm beginning to trust in my own inner voice to connect with the Great Spirit. I don't feel that it's necessary at this time for guidance in that direction but it will eventually come to that. Right now I find a lot of strength in myself, my own concepts.

But we have had a lot of people come into our lives. Lindy, you tell him.

Well there's one guy, Albert Kine, an Elder in Ontario who travels sometimes with Grand Chief Mercredi. I met him when I was a Deputy Grand Chief. So I've known him for a while and I asked him about my daughter. He told me she had to continue to give the message to the community, the people so we don't forget that message. So we don't forget about who we are and where we come from. He talked about the pictures as a way to get that message about ourselves so as not to forget who we are. This was one of the things he had said.

Of course I gave him a couple of prints of Betty's. Also Fred Plane, head of an Elders' committee in Ontario. He calls the Elders from all over Canada when they have meetings. He enjoys Betty's art too... Well, I'd better let Betty talk.

You could go on forever (laughter)...

So you have the support of the traditional community?

Just in September I went to Kewadin Casino. We have quite a large collection there. There's a very traditional lady there. She has quite a few gifts. There's an energy you can feel whenever she's around. Then suddenly when we were sitting in the cafeteria there, she started to tell me why things had happened in my life the way they had. I had never talked to her about what had happened in my life but she knew it all.

She talked about what I had gone through before I knew I was Indian and why that was so important for me to have experienced those things. Everything in my life had happened at the right time in order for me to become an artist and do what I'm doing. She described things in the future for me too. It was with things happening to



me that I had never told anyone. Things happening to me creatively and she gave me a description of the picture she saw in her mind. I'm surprised I didn't faint. It was such an incredible experience for her to have been so intuitive. It was interesting that it happened at a time when I needed to hear this. People come to you when it's time.

Lindy: Her art is accepted wherever we go. I've been to many reserves and nowhere have they refused her art. They love her art. People who can't afford a piece of art will phone us months later and they still remember the name of the piece they want.

Now let's get on to some material stuff, re-enter that material world.

Let me pinch myself and find out (laughter)...

How do you feel about your art hanging in so many Native businesses, entities, councils?

That's where I want them to be. That's where they want to be too. You never know where things are going to lead, where they're going to take you. I simply go with what wants to happen and this basically is what wanted to happen. I feel very strongly about art finding its own way—where it belongs—and you have to follow through with it.

I feel very proud that Native people have accepted me. That makes me feel a lot of pride and reassures me that this is the right

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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And.

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·bC^c, “σ₁σ₂, ΔσΓ^γ·Δ^γΔ^γ Δ^γ bΔΠ^γC^γ.”

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“σΓ⁴d” Δ⁰,” 2 bΓ²J^ud_u.

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Δζ^ωΩ^ω. Δζ^ωΔΩ^ω.

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“ᐱᓴ ᑭᕋᓂᓄᓐ ᐱᓐᑎᑎᓐᕕᐱᓐᐱ,” ᐃᕕᐃᓐᑎᓴ. ᐅᕕ ᐱᓐᓯᓐᐱᓄᓄᓐ,
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ḥḥ, “ḏ ḥḥ, ḥḥ. ḥ ḥḥ ḥḥḥḥḥḥ, ḥḥḥ, ḥḥḥ
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ልማርጃ። “የገገገህሁት ይህንኑ ልማርጃ።” ብሏል።

ბიძე. "იქნა ცეცხლი ბოროტად."

ԵՇ ՎՊՇԱՆՈՒՆ, ՎՇԺՎ ԵՄ ԵՄՆ ԼՅՇՊՈՐԵՆՆԱԼ. ԴՅՄՎ
 ԱՅՇ.ՇՈ, “ՇՇՎՎ ՄԺԺՆՎ ԵՄՆՆՆ ԼՅՇՊՈՐԵՆՆԱԼ. ԼՅՆՆՆՆՆ
 ՆՅՆՆ ԼՅՇՊՈՐԵՆՆԱԼ.” ՇՇՆՆՆՆՆ ԼՅՇՊՈՐԵՆՆԱԼ, ԼՅՇՊՈՐԵՆՆԱԼ, ԵՇ
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·ΔJ^{III}C^C ▷↳ ·Δ^{Δ^{III}}. <Δ^Δ Γ^{II}·b^Δσ^Δ, <Δ^Δ ·Δ<^Δσ^Δ ▷↳ ·Δ<^Δ. Δ^Δ CΛ^ΔbΔ^Δ, L·CσP·J^C CΛ^ΔbΔ^Δ. “·Δ^ΔC^Δ Δ^ΔΓ^Δ P^Δ σ·Λ,” ΔΠ^{II}Δ^Δ.

פֶּֽלֶאֱלִיָּהּ. "רַחֲמֵינוּ, שְׂדֵדֵנוּ, שְׂרָדֵנוּ בְּאַחֲדֵינוּ."

גַּלְיָה לְעֹמֶרֶת. "שְׂדֵדֵנוּ בְּאַחֲדֵנוּ שְׂרָדֵנוּ."

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“σδΔς. Ἐ. ἰκ.β. ρῖλς.”

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·bC^c. “σ^γ·Γ·ΔC^a.”

“À"À. σ'C'. Δd"À. Δ ÌΔS"▷ζ".

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ᐃᐱᑕᑦᐅᑦ ᑦᑕ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐳᑦ. ᐃᑦᐃᑕᑦ. “ᑲᑲ. ᐱᐱᐃᑦᑕᑦ.”

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No ROOMS AT THE INN?

BY ERNEST WEBB

Larry House of Chisasibi has filed with the Quebec Human Rights Commission in Rouyn Noranda.

His claim is against the Journey's End Motel in Val d'Or. He claims discrimination was a factor when he was refused a room at the motel.

House recounted that in December of '94 after arriving into town the motel was his first stop. He thought it strange when Isabelle, the receptionist, said there were no rooms. He walked out and drove around the motel and saw there were "no more than 10 cars in the lot."

He drove to L'Escale, a nearby motel, and got a room. He phoned the Journey's End 800 number for reservations and asked about rooms. He was told there were "lots of rooms." He then went back to Journey's to ask why he was refused. Visibly distressed the receptionist said, "It was full."

"I just called the 800," he replied. House said she then blurted, "Because you're Indian, I don't know what you're going to do." He told her he was going to make a complaint. The next day he called the Human Rights Commission. He was sent five pages to fill out.

In his claim he asked for: an apology from Journey's End Motels, stop the racist policy, \$100 "exemplary" damages and expenses at L'Escale. Since then he's recieved a written apology, a \$100 cheque plus a free weekend. House didn't cash the cheque and wants to see the outcome from the Commission. He wants to see this through because after the apologies and everything he wondered whether it would be business as usual. Due to policy the Commission would neither confirm nor deny that it was handling such a case.

Mary-Anne Hoelscher, regional director for Journey's End, said she was very sorry about what happened and stressed it was an isolated incident.

"We spend a lot of money to make sure every customer is treated with dignity and respect," said Hoelscher,

"and unfortunately we missed out on this one."

Not inn's philosophy

HOELSCHER SAID THE offending employee's actions in no way represent the philosophy of Journey's End and that other employees were shocked at the desk clerk's attitude. "Needless to say, she is no longer with us," she added.

As soon as management learned about the incident the woman was suspended and she has since been fired altogether.

"All the other employees agreed with the decision that she should not be part of their team," Hoelscher said. "We have

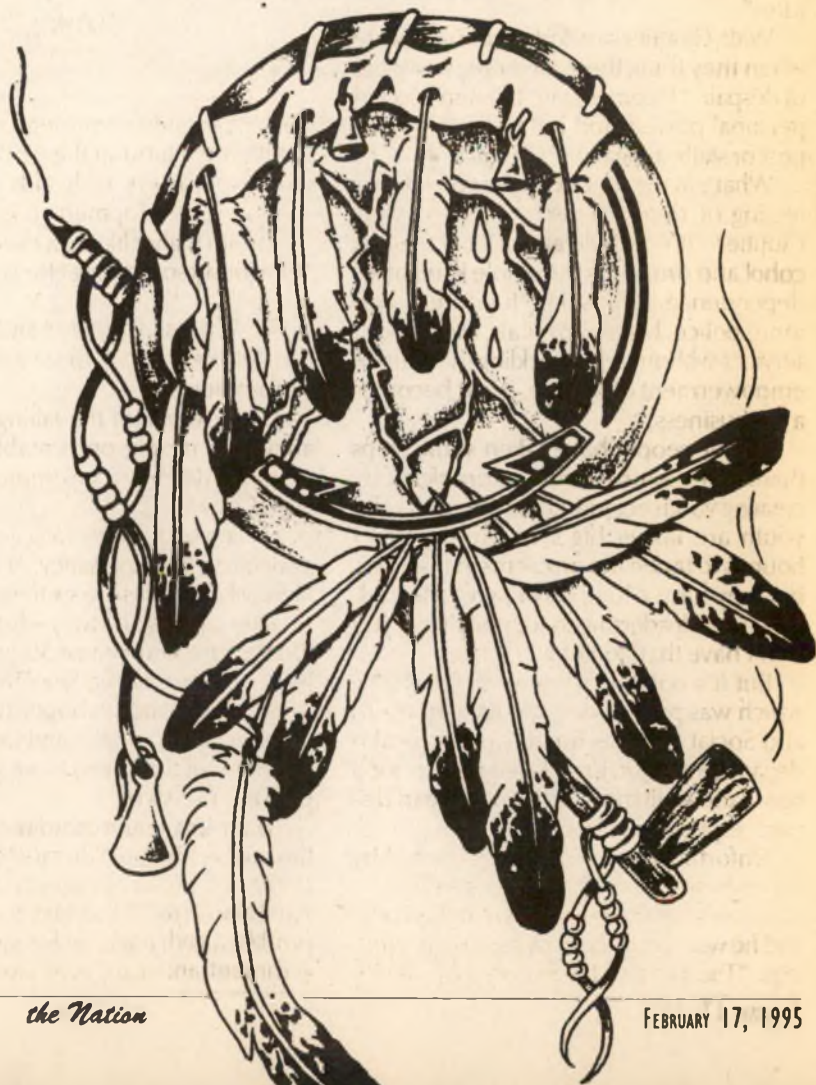
no room for someone like that."

While stressing the treatment of Larry House was an isolated incident at Journey's End, Hoelscher admitted she has heard about mistreatment of Native people by other businesses in Val d'Or. She said it is a real shame, because Native people bring millions of dollars to the town and if people aren't treated well, one day the town might lose that business.

Asked why he filed with the Commission House said, "I knew nothing would be done" if he didn't file. He added, "I felt I was wronged. After all my money's green."

"We spend a lot of money to make sure every customer is treated with dignity and respect, and unfortunately we missed out on this one."

—Journey's End regional director



INUIT DYING YOUNGER THAN 20 YEARS AGO, SAYS NEW STUDY

DISTURBING FIGURES COMPILED now for the first time show that Inuit of northern Quebec have a shorter life expectancy today than they did 20 years ago, due partly to a high number of suicides among the young people.

If you're an Inuk in northern Quebec aged 15 to 19, you're 25 times more likely to take your life than the average Quebecer your age, says the study now circulating among Inuit officials and health workers in Nunavik.

The Inuit life expectancy in Nunavik used to be around 65 years in the early 1970s—before the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed. Today, it's 60 years, less than South Africa's and equal to that of India, says the study. The Canadian life expectancy is 77 years.

"The feelings are really deep when you see those figures," says Sheila Watt-Cloutier, education resource person at Makivik Corp. "It's just an incredible picture."

Watt-Cloutier says kids commit suicide when they think there's no other way out of despair. "It comes from the depletion of personal powers and not having the support or skills to deal with stress."

What's at the root of the suicide rate is a feeling of disempowerment, says Watt-Cloutier. "It's a whole bigger story than alcohol and drugs. It's the whole issue of independence," she said. "If you just add more police, bigger hospitals, more social services without really tackling the issue of empowerment of people, it just becomes a big business."

Young people have taken some steps themselves to deal with the problems by creating youth organizations, she said. "The youth are taking big steps in leaps and bounds to tackle the problems themselves, but they have a long way to go," she said. "You need leadership to support that. If you don't have that, forget it."

But it's not all bad news in the study, which was prepared by the Kativik Health and Social Services Board's public health department in Kuujuaq. Eating country food has made Inuit more resistant to heart disease, especially Inuit Elders.

Unfortunately, this is counteracted by the high rate of smoking among Inuit.

Brian Schnarch, the author of the study, said he was taken aback by some of his findings. "The fact that life expectancy isn't in-



"If you just add more police, bigger hospitals, more social services without really tackling the issue of empowerment of people, it just becomes a big business"

—Sheila Watt-Cloutier

creasing is fairly surprising and dramatic. Pretty much around the world when you see development of health services and economic development, it goes hand-in-hand with higher life expectancy," he said. "Obviously something else is going on."

Causes preventable

BUT SCHNARCH SAID there are answers to the problems.

"The causes (of the falling life expectancy) are mostly preventable so there's scope for doing work to improve the situation," he said.

Cutting back on smoking would improve a fair bit on life expectancy. At the moment, Nunavik residents are six times more likely to die of respiratory diseases than Quebecers, and almost 50 per cent more likely to die of cancer. Smoking is to blame.

Schnarch said he hopes the study will give Inuit communities and health workers information they need to set priorities and plan their services.

Sarah Airo, youth coordinator at Makivik, linked the high suicide rate to two important social problems—substance abuse and family violence. "(Suicide) is a very serious problem and it has to be recognized by government and non-government organiza-

tions," she said.

Airo pointed to the Health Board's creation of youth centres in Kuujuaq and Inukjuak and the recent formation of the Nunavik Youth Association as hopeful developments.

The study also found:

- Thirty-nine Inuit took their own lives between 1989 and 1993, the years the study is based on. Spread out over 7,000 Nunavik residents, that's a rate eight times higher than the Quebec average.

- The Nunavik infant mortality rate is four times the Canadian average.

- Inuit are seven times more likely than the average Quebecer to experience trauma deaths (which includes suicide, murder, fire, drowning, exposure and vehicle accidents).

- Canadian Natives aged 15 to 19 are five times more likely to commit suicide than Quebecers their age.

- The study also has a few numbers from James Bay: Crees on average live five years shorter than Canadians and the Cree infant mortality rate is 30 per cent higher.

Copies of the report are available by calling Brian Schnarch at 819-964-2222.

BY ALEX ROSLIN

·Δσ<δ<·δ< δ·δ<δ<δ< δ<·δ<δ< (δVδ) From the GCCQ news desk:

Energy debate

The Grand Council has announced that at present it will not participate in the debate announced by the Government of Quebec. The government, responding to an election promise, has set up a public debate on energy options. The problem with the debate is that the panels are made up of members chosen by the government itself. The members include people working for Hydro Quebec and other large companies into "selling" the company line. In addition, to do this, these members will have access to millions of dollars worth of technical and public relations back-up. Other members will have no such back-ups.

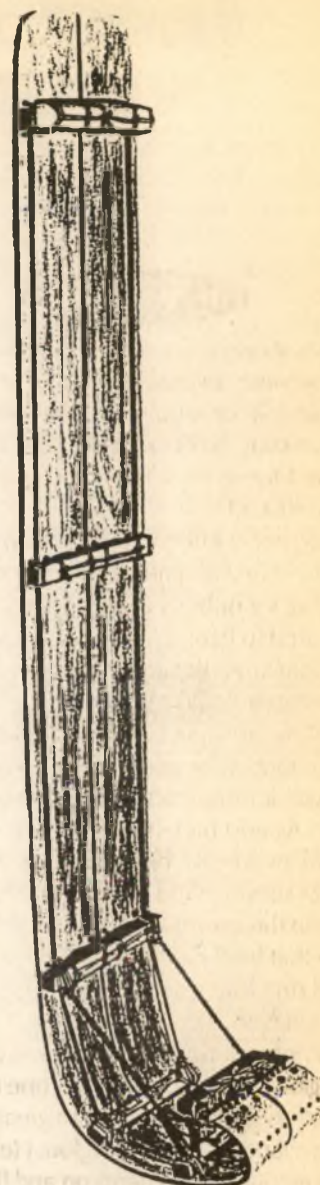
In a superficial effort to smooth over this flaw in the process, the Government of Quebec intends to make \$800,000 available to intervenor groups and individuals. Millions for Hydro Quebec to sell its point of view and 13 cents per Quebecer to reply!

In Ontario, a similar energy debate which ended in 1993 cost \$9 million and provided substantial funding to a variety of interested consumer groups, environmental groups, Aboriginal peoples and others. In Ontario, the process was run by rules of procedure and important board membership and participation. In Quebec, the cards have been stacked in favour of the "Bulldozer Coalition."



Waswanipi Sawmill

The guidelines for the environmental and social impact review of the Waswanipi Sawmill are being written by the Evaluation Committee. These guidelines will call for a review not only at the sawmill site, but also of the impact of forestry operations on Cree traplines. This will be the first time that a forestry company has undertaken to evaluate these impacts widelyfelt by the trappers.



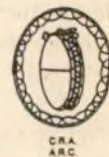
Toboggan Model
This toboggan was attributed to the Mistissini Cree, in a 1971 calendar



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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

Paid advertisement



THE COAT

BY VICTOR ALLEN

Long ago on the Yukon Coast when the whalers first came to Herschel Island, an old Eskimo admired a white man's sports coat. So he bought it for a few skins. One of his fellow Eskimos bought himself a rifle.

As time went on the Eskimo with the sports coat was quite popular among his people for nobody else had such a coat. He used to hang it in his sod house in summer and his igloo in winter where everybody could see it.

Now, his neighbour was the Eskimo who bought the rifle. He wanted to trade his gun for the sports coat in the worst way. Against his wife's wishes he did trade his gun for the sports coat. After all, it was summer and he didn't need the rifle in the summer. His wife used to tell him that he'd need it in the winter, but he didn't listen, saying, "So what, I got a coat, haven't I?"

Winter came and they were living in an igloo as Eskimos did. Late one night the man's dogs started making a great disturbance outside the igloo. He woke up and put his skin pants on and lit the seal oil lamp.

The polar bear was coming into the porch tunnel where there was some seal meat and blubber. The Eskimo was getting more and more frightened, for he had no gun. So he asked his wife, "What am I going to do?" The bear was coming into the igloo, getting closer and closer. Now the Eskimo was really scared and he asked his wife again, "What am I going to do?"

His wife told him, "Put on your coat."

Today, all my people are wearing the white man's coat.

From "The Snow Goose and the Mosquito: A Question of Development" in *Northern Voices: Inuit Writing in English*.

HBC ARCHIVES



January 18, 1995

Once long time ago
Someone gave me beautiful dishes
then I heard a remark that made me sad
The beautiful dinnerware was too good
for me

Take them back the person said
why waste that beautiful dinner set on
her

I had never forgotten that low opinion of
me
because I was Native and poor
In our quest to be successful, and others
are not we forget

It's agreeable to be important
but it's more important to be agreeable
The seven deadly sins are power,
money, greed and pride.
Envy and greed are others. I forgot the
seventh one, anyway.
It's your value to others that's more
important

Recently I discovered that I am very rich
not that I've won a lottery, or have a
well-paying job
I don't even do well in Bingo
But I consider myself a rich woman
because I am a writer
Like most writers I don't count my
wealth
in my bank account which is nil half the
time

What I value most in my life are people
my family, my friends, my readers, each
are priceless
Like gemstones

Writing gives me many opportunities
but more important it helps me to grow
as a human being I've learned writing a
difficult story
requires patience, a lesson that will carry
into other things in my life

Writing has brought me great friends
good memories and a feeling
I've done something worthwhile
I hope I will continue to profit in good
people
I am lucky I never dreamed I'd have so
much good
fortune

BY MARGARET CROMARTY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE (as of Feb. 8)

NORTHEAST DIVISION							
	G	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh Penguins	9	8	0	1	17	43	27
Quebec Nordiques	8	7	1	0	14	31	13
Buffalo Sabres	10	6	3	1	13	22	21
Boston Bruins	8	6	2	0	12	27	18
Montreal Canadiens	8	3	3	2	8	21	22
Hartford Whalers	8	2	4	2	6	17	18
Ottawa Senators	9	1	6	2	4	21	30
ATLANTIC DIVISION							
N.Y. Islanders	9	4	4	1	9	26	30
Tampa Bay Lightning	10	4	5	1	9	30	31
N.Y. Rangers	9	3	5	1	7	23	21
Florida Panthers	10	3	6	1	7	23	31
Philadelphia Flyers	10	3	6	1	7	23	31
New Jersey Devils	8	2	4	2	6	14	20
Washington Capitals	8	2	5	1	5	11	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION							
Detroit Red Wings	10	7	3	0	14	40	21
Saint Louis Blues	9	6	2	1	13	44	28
Chicago Blackhawks	9	6	3	0	12	40	23
Toronto Maple Leafs	10	4	4	2	10	31	30
Dallas Stars	8	3	4	1	7	26	20
Winnipeg Jets	9	2	5	2	6	27	33
PACIFIC DIVISION							
San Jose Sharks	9	5	3	1	11	22	27
Calgary Flames	9	4	4	1	9	28	26
Anaheim Mighty Ducks	9	4	5	0	8	23	38
Edmonton Oilers	8	3	5	0	6	20	33
Los Angeles Kings	9	2	5	2	6	27	33
Vancouver Canucks	7	1	4	2	4	18	34

Scoring Leaders

(as of Feb. 8)			G	A	P
Selanne, Win.	7	8	15		
Sakic, Que.	4	11	15		
Hull, StL	9	5	14		
Jagr, Pit	7	7	14		
Tkachuk, Wpg.	7	7	14		
Nichols, Chi.	5	9	14		
Yzerman, Det.	4	10	14		
Francis, Pit.	3	11	14		
Sheppard, Det.	10	3	13		
Mullen, Pit.	7	6	13		
Tikkanen, StL	5	8	13		
Housley, Cal	3	10	13		
Roenick, Chi	3	10	13		
Titov, Cal	8	4	12		
Neely, Bos	7	5	12		
Cullen, Pit	5	7	12		
Bourque, Bos	2	10	12		
Murphy, Chi	8	3	11		
Sandstrom, Pit	6	5	11		
Oates, Bos	4	7	11		
Lindros, Phi	4	7	11		
Chelios, Chi	3	8	11		
Kurri, LA	3	8	11		
Coffey, Det	1	10	11		
Tocchet, LA	7	3	10		
Klima, TB	6	4	10		
Turgeon, Isl	5	5	10		
Sundin, Tor	5	5	10		
Clark, Que	4	6	10		
Gilmour, Tor	3	7	10		

Mistissini Tourney

We got some of the scores from Mistissini's Neoskweskau Memorial Tournament wrong in our last issue. Here are the right ones:

JANUARY 19

Mist. Truckers	10	Ouje-Bougoumou	4
Mist. Lakers	7	Ouje Sparrows	0
Chibougamau	5	Ouje Young Guns	3
Mist. Winterhawks	5	Wem. Ex-Wolves	4

JANUARY 20

Mist. Leafs	0	Wem. Wolverines	0
Wask. Starlites	4	Mist. Lakers	1
Nemaska Stars	2	Wasw. Coolcats	5
Waswanipi	5	Mist. Rusty-Blades	2
Chis. Ex-Hunters	3	Wask. No NBR	5
Wask. Starlites	3	Was. Northern Stars	1
Mist. Winterhawks	5	Wasw. Coolcats	7
Wemindji Ex-Wolves	9	Nemaska Stars	1
Mist. Truckers	1	Mist. Rusty-Blades	3
Chibougamau	9	Ouje-Bougoumou	0

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mist. Trappers	9	Wemindji Wolves	1
Wasw. Chiefs	3	Chibougamau	3
Chis. Hunters	2	Val d'Or	5
Chibougamau	8	Chis. Ex-Hunters	4
Pointe Bleue	1	Chis. North Stars	3
Wasw. Northern Stars	10	Ouje Sparrows	0



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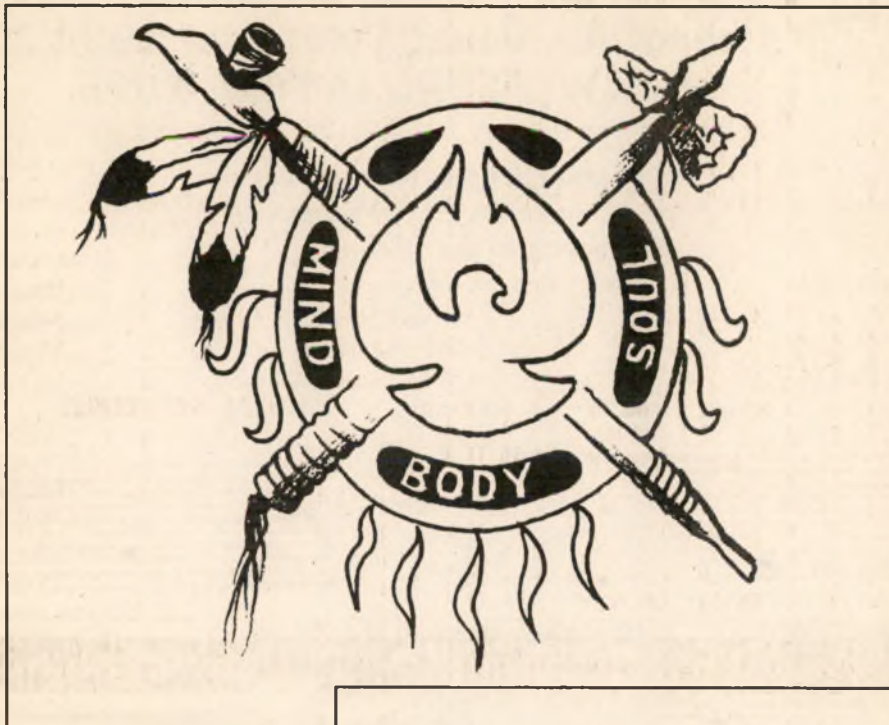
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE
BUREAU D'INDEMNITE

The office of the Cree Regional Authority of the Board of Compensation/CREECO is relocating to the Cree Community of Ouje-Bougoumou on March 01, 1995. The new address will be as follows:

203 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec
G0W 3C0

Telebec Ltd. is in the process of installing the phone lines to the community, and our phone number will be printed in the next issue of *The Nation*. Meegwetch.

IF YOU ARE ABUSED...



If you are abused:

- Call the police if you have been assaulted.
- Tell someone. Talk to a friend, a family member, a doctor or a counsellor.
- Write down the details of the assault as soon as possible.
- Develop a safety plan. Memorize emergency phone numbers and know where you can stay in an emergency.
- Recognize that no one has the right to control you and that it's everyone's right to live without fear.
- Without intervention, his violence will increase in frequency and severity as time passes.

If you are abusive:

- You need to take responsibility for your behaviour. Your wife or girlfriend does not make you hit her.
- Your violence will increase if you don't take action to stop.
- Blaming your violence on drugs, alcohol or sickness and apologizing after the violence will not solve the problem.
- Physical violence and threats of violence are crimes. You face fines or imprisonment if convicted.
- You can begin to change with support.

What you can do to help a friend who is in an abusive situation

Do:

- Believe her.
- Listen and affirm her feelings without judging her.

Give a clear message that:

- She does not cause abuse.
- She is not to blame.
- She can not control her abusive partner's behaviour.
- Apologies and promises will not end the violence.
- Abuse is not loss of control; it is a means of control.
- Violence is never justifiable.
- The safety of the victim and the children is always the first priority.
- Talk with her about options and help her plan for her and the children's safety.

- Give her the time and space to make her own decisions.

Respect her need for confidentiality.

Abused women need support and encouragement in order to make choices that are right for themselves. But there are some forms of advice that are damageable and even dangerous for them to hear.

Don't:

- Tell her what to do, when to leave or when not to leave.
- Tell her to go back to the situation and try a little harder
- Suggest you try and talk to the partner and straighten things out.
- Tell her that she should stay for the sake of the children.

Reprinted from *Pindigeyabig*, the family violence newsletter in Maniwaki. Info: 819-449-7425

**FIRST
EVER!!**

the Nation

READER'S POLL

Help *The Nation* Serve You Better!!! Answer the following questions, send this page to our offices, and you could **WIN a beautiful, bound volume of 1994 *Nations*.
DRAW: FEBRUARY 28, 1995.**

Please fill out only one poll per household - Please answer all questions

1. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18 - 24
☐ 25 - 34 ☐ 35 - 44
☐ 45 - 59 ☐ 60 and over

2. How many people of the following age groups live in your household? (please put a number from 0 to 10+ in each box)

- _____ Under 18 _____ 18 - 24
_____ 25 - 34 _____ 35 - 44
_____ 45 - 59 _____ 60+

3. Which region do you live in?

- ☐ East Coast James Bay INTERIOR
☐ East Coast James Bay COASTAL
☐ West Coast (Ontario) INTERIOR
☐ West Coast (Ontario) COASTAL
☐ Other (specify: _____)

4. What was the income of your household last year?

- ☐ Under \$15,000
☐ \$15,000 - \$24,000
☐ \$25,000 - \$29,000
☐ \$30,000 - \$39,000
☐ \$40,000 and over

5. How much money does your household spend on a major shopping trip?

- ☐ \$100 - \$500 ☐ \$500 - \$1,000
☐ \$1,000 - \$5,000 ☐ \$5,000+

6. How many times last year did you or members of your household go shopping in the following towns? (please put a number from 0 to 20+ in each space)

- _____ Chibougamau
_____ Rouyn-Noranda
_____ Val d'Or
_____ Timmins
_____ Amos
_____ North Bay
_____ Montreal
_____ Ottawa
_____ Other: _____

7. How many times in the following months does your household make major shopping trips?

- _____ January - February
_____ March - April
_____ May - June
_____ July - August
_____ September - October
_____ November - December

8. Is there a computer in your house? ☐ Yes ☐ No

A modem? ☐ Yes ☐ No

A Computer game? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. How do you rate *The Nation* as a publication overall?

- ☐ poor
☐ fair
☐ good
☐ excellent

10. Do you want to see more or less of the following in *the Nation*? (1=less, 2=same, 3=more)

- _____ Education _____ Health
_____ Traditional pursuits
_____ Cree politics - local
_____ Cree politics - regional
_____ Native politics - national
_____ Economics _____ Religion
_____ Elders _____ Youth
_____ Development Projects
_____ Women's Issues
_____ Sports _____ Social Issues

11. Do you want to see more or less information from the following? (1=less, 2=same, 3=more)

- _____ School Board/Educational Authority
_____ GCCQ, CRA/ Muskegowuk Council
_____ Your Local First Nation
_____ Health and Social Services
_____ Economic Entities
_____ Your Trappers' Association

12. How Important are the following to you for keeping in touch? (1=very important, 2=adequate, 3=not important)

- _____ JBCCS / Wawatay Radio
_____ Community radio
_____ CBC - North TV _____ Radio
_____ TVO _____ TVNC
_____ *The Nation*
_____ Wawatay News _____ The Freighter
_____ Muskego Arrow
_____ Annual Reports/newsletters

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN A BOUND VOLUME OF *THE NATION*:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

SEND TO:
c/o THE NATION
P.O. BOX 48036
5678 du PARC
MONTREAL, PQ, H2V 4S8
Or Fax it: 514.278.9914

13. IF QUEBEC SEPARATES FROM CANADA, WHAT DO YOU THINK AS A JAMES BAY CREE YOU SHOULD DO?

- ☐ Stay with Quebec
☐ Stay with Canada
☐ Form an independent country

CUT HERE

MYSTERIOUS SIGHT

BY GEORGE M. SHECAPIO

On Nov. 7, 1991, between 5:22 and 5:24 p.m., I was turning right to the street where I live and at the same instant I saw a bright orange yellowish light travelling behind the tree tops, behind the Telebec Tower eastward of the town of Mstissini.

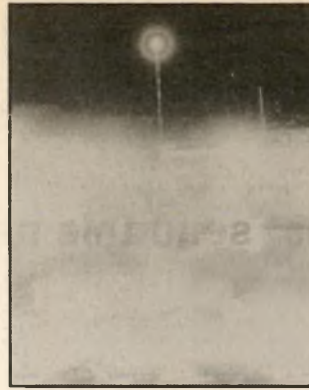
From my judgement, the object was relatively close. If I'm not mistaken, it sort of made a turn towards the village at an angle-wise position. At the time it came toward the village. The first thing that came to my mind was it's a chopper flying at night. But at the same time it was somewhat curious.

Then at that point, I saw what looked like two headlights. One seemed to be brighter than the other. And I also saw what I thought looked like blue, red or green strobe lights. It somewhat appeared to be lighted all around. A few houses obstructed my view. But it appeared again. This time it appeared to have changed its colour to a blue-greenish type.

When and where it appeared after, the few houses blocked my view because it was travelling rather low. To me it seemed to hover above somewhere around Jimmy Coon's house.

It was travelling at about 100 feet from the ground if not higher and going relatively fast. It headed westward, sort of going away from where I was watching it angle-wise.

At the same time I was pulling up to my driveway honking my horn to catch the attention of my family who were inside the house.



One of my boys managed to get out in time to see it go by for about three to five seconds. I personally witnessed the event for about 10 seconds or more along with a neighbour who happened to be walking by facing the same direction on the opposite side of the road.

I remember lowering my car window to listen or hoping to hear turbulence or listen to a chopper fly by. But to my surprise I did not hear anything other than my truck purring like a kitten. I then asked

the person walking on the other side of the street if she heard anything. She confirmed not hearing anything.

At that time the object sort of picked up speed travelling away westward. It still had the blue-greenish colour as it travelled away. I saw what I thought looked like a blue-greenish streak behind it as it moved along.

Maybe this sounds crazy. However I did feel a little somewhat strange. Anyway I saw what I saw...

Witnessed and recorded by me George M. Shecapio.

I cannot describe what the object would possibly look like.

Other sightings of a mysterious object were reported at the same time from people at Perch River (10 miles away) and people travelling on the road from Chibougamau (30 miles away). Similar reports later came in from Shefferville and Gagnon.

COMICS

Garfield®

by Jim Davis



CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to James & Marise on their birth of their son on Jan. 27/95. Fr. Michael, Demerise, Jennifer

Congratulations to Nelson Mianscum & Stephanie Bosum on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Abigail Whitney Chelsea, born on Jan. 22/95 at 5:55 p.m. Happiness & joy to the 3 of you and to the proud grandparents Kenny & Bella Mianscum & Jimmy & Caroline Bosum. Sending all our love: Henry & Margo Cooper & children xxooxxoo

Congratulations going out to Priscilla Gilpin and Wallace House for the birth of their first baby boy, Wally Davey, on Jan. 12/95. Fr: mom & dad (Gilpin's)

Congratulations to the proud
parents to our sister Sally and
Clifford on the birth of their
daughter Julianne Nicole born
on the 17th of Dec. 1994. Lots of
love from: the Jimikens

**Congratulations to my Brother
and his Girlfriend Mona on the
birth of their Daughter Maggie
Jona born on 20th of Dec. 1994.
With lots of love Wajagee**

We would like to congratulate
our friends Kyla Grant & Claude
Cooper for their new baby girl
who was born on Jan-14-95.
Congratulations from: your
friends Nadia H. & Clara G.

Rejoicing with you on the safe arrival of your Precious baby, Courtney Julie, born on Dec. 28/94. Congratulations to Edna & Philip Pet. Best wishes from: Kitty & Wally

Congratulations to Priscilla Gilpin and Wallace House on the birth of their 1st son Wally Davey on January 12/1995. Best wishes, with love sis Karen and bro Reginald

Congratulations to Peter and Connie on the birth of their daughter Tyrelline Tyra Gull born on January 17th, 95. We wish you the best from: Gordon & Lily-Anna & Leeanne & Christianna Bosum

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy 42nd Birthday to Elizabeth Kitty on January 17 from relatives in Chisasibi

Happy 5th Birthday to my nephew Troy Saganash on Feb. 5 and remember we love you! Love your aunt Colleen Donny and your cuz Tamara

I would like to wish "Happy Birthday" to my great-grandpa Isaac Sealhunter Jan. 21 and also to my grandpa Joe Sealhunter on January 14. oxoxox From your loving grandson Justin (Boy) Pash

Birthday Greetings to
Cassandra. Her B-day was on Jan.
14 and to Christopher January
26/95. We love you all. From
your family, LP, JP, DJP, LP, GS, SS
and JP

Happy Belated Birthday to our grandma Elsie Duff on Jan. 25 and to our cousins Corinne (Jan. 21) and to Robert (Jan. 11) hugs and kisses for gookum. From Perry and Wabi Noshkum oxox

Happy 11th birthday to our special son Adrian Wapachee on Jan. 29. We love you all and many more to come. Love always, Dad and Mom & Joshua & little sister Baby Shannon. xoxoxo

Happy Birthday to Phyllis
Katapatuk (Wask.) We love you
so much! With lots: Granny Mary
Auntie Margaret, Cousins Claudia
Georgette, Lindsay, Marie, Rusty
Jr., Royce & Little Alfred Jr. (01
21/95)

Belated birthday wishes going out to my friend Jamie S. who celebrated her birthday in Waskaganish on January?? Hope you didn't party too much!! From your pal in N. Bay

We'd like to wish a very happy birthday to Louie Coon on Jan. 24 and to Suzanne on Jan. 22. With all our love: Johnny, Joyce and Wabimeguin. P.S. Louie don't party too much!

We wanna wish a Happy Birth
day to Michael J. Mianscum on
Jan. 30. We love u fr. Demerise &
Jennifer on Jan. 31 in Mist. and to
my nephew Curtis Meskino on
Feb. 5 who's here in Chisasibi. Fr
Marvann M.

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Happy Birthday to Jane Shecapio on Jan. 30 in North Bay Ont. and to **Laurie Rabbitskin**

Happy Birthday to a special little boy Zachary Mianscum Spencer on February first, son of Jeff and Maggie from Mistissini. Wish I could see you blow out your candle. Fr: Charlotte & Abel

Happy Birthday to my dad
Ronnie Icebound on Jan. 15-99
with lots and lots of love, daugh-
ter. Lily-Anna at Ouje-Bougou-
mou and your grand-daughters
Leeanne and Christianna Bosum

We wanna wish our great grand child Zachary Bennett Mianscum Spencer a very happy Birthday on Feb. 1, son of Jeff & Maggie from Mistissini. We love you and miss you a lot. Fr: Nancy & Sam Blacksmith

Belated Birthday wish going out to: Mabel Voyageur Feb. 01 Hope you enjoyed your b-day at the clinic working hard. Fr. some one who noticed your b-day! Watchia Chishaeskwesh Mist. LO

Thinking of someone in Toronto a very happy 1st Birthday Peter (Nagoush). Hoping to see you soon celebrate your big day (Jan. 24th). Lots of love Aunt Susie



We want to wish a Happy Birth-
day to a dear father and Grandfa-
ther Sandy Masty on Feb. 10 with
lots of love from Rebecca, David
Terrell & Robin in North Bay

We wanna wish a Happy 19th belated Birthday to Janie Pepabano on Jan. 26 with lots of love from your sisters Ahvie, Di and Di-Go

We would like to wish Happy 8th Birthday to Jessica Voyageur (Feb. 17). Love always, the Rat Family

CLASSIFIEDS

We wanna wish a Happy 1st Birthday to Rosalea Barksin on Feb. 3 and to Adele Bellefleur Feb. 24 from Eddie, Christine, Perry and Wabinoshkum

A very happy birthday to Gregory Whiskeychan on Feb. 14 and to Bedabin Coon on Feb. 18. Happy Birthday Boys. Love Diane, John & Cheyanne xoxo

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to Sharon (FaFa) Ratt (Feb. 2). We hope your dreams come true with love, mom & dad, sisters & brothers.

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to our aunt Sharon (Feb. 2). With love, nephews & neices

Happy Birthday to our girlfriend Sharon (Feb. 2). Hugs & kisses, Stephane, Tommy-Lee, Curtis, Danny Boy

I would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to my son Darryl Hughboy on February 15, 1995. Many more to come. I love you always, lots of love mom

We want to wish a happy birthday to two special people in our lives: my precious daughter, 3 yrs old Leeanna & my dad Frank Happyjack, 69 yrs old. From: Annie & Marcel. We love you xoxoxox From: Waswanipi

A belated wish to my Aunt Florence Mark on Jan. 03. Love u so much & hope you had a wonderful flight to Montreal. Lots of Love Silas xoxoxox

Happy 1st Birthday to my cousin Julie Swallow on February 1/95. (Wemindji) Luv: Sherri (Montreal)

I would like to wish my grandfather Richard Blackned Happy Birthday on February 14/95 (Wemindji) From: Sherri (Montreal)

Happy Birthday to our sister Cynthia in Montreal on Feb. 16. You're how old??? Anyways have a happy birthday!

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to Alice M. (Mist.) P.S. Be a good girl now, stay away from the Tequila. Fr: Agnes, Mike, Jason, Wayne and Richard (Chis.)

Happy belated birthday to Daniel White who celebrated his birthday on Dec. 13, 94. Fr: Agnes & Caitlin

Birthday wishes goes out to Darwin Tooktoo on Feb. 14. Hope you'll enjoy your 8th birthday. We love ya! From the Matches family in Chis.

Birthday wishes goes out to Lynn Matches. Hope your birthday wish comes true! We love ya! Fr. friends always Jib and June on Feb. 06, 1995

Birthday wishes goes out to our daughter Nancysh. We hope you get everything you wanted. We love ya! Love always mom and dad on Feb. 25.

Birthday wishes goes out to our sis Nancysh on Feb. 25, 1995. Hope you'll have fun. We love ya! Love always Jib and Dyna. xoxoxox

Jan. Birthday wishes to Louise (6) Emma (15) and Leonard (29) Matt - We're thinking of you on your special day. And we miss you all hope to see you soon. Love and prayers Clarence & Ella (Mist.)

I'd like to send my love and Birthday greetings to Julie Swallow on Feb. 1st. "I love you and wish I could be there on your first birthday." Also "Hello" to my parents & rest of my family, friends and co-workers in Wemindji. Fr: Emma Georgekish



Birthday wishes going out to my husband Normand Coonishish & my dad Sam Gunner on Feb. 10. Also to my eldest & youngest sisters, Evadney Coon Feb. 8, Maria MacLeod Feb. 12. With lots of love Louise Mist.

Happy Belated Birthday to a very special guy Mike Pelletier P.S. I love you with all of my love Agnes Petawabano xoxoxo

I wish a Happy Birthday to my daddy Leonard Brien on Jan. 30/95. From your son Alexander Brien. I love you so much daddy. I couldn't wish for more xoxox

Happy Birthday to our daughter Nadia Petawabano on Feb. 18. We love you and wish you all the best. God bless. All our love, mom & dad and all the gang at 75 Mistissini Blvd.

To: Faith in Hull, Qc. wishing you simply the best on your birthday & to Jane in Alberta. Happy belated birthday on Jan. 6, 95 with all our love. Charlie, Linda & children Awashish

Birthday wish to my loving Husband Leonard Brien on Jan. 30/95. I love you so much because you're special to me, today, tomorrow and always. From your wife Emily! With lots of love xoxoxox

We'd like to wish happy Birthday to our Dad Jimmie Frank Gull on Feb-17 and also to our Grandma Christine Gull on Feb. 9. From Jordan Iserhoff Gull, Hayley Gull. God bless

Happy Birthday to our son Curtis Meskino who will be turning 4 years old on Feb. 5 with love Mom & Dad and Happy Birthday to my Brother Stanley Kitty on Feb. 4. From your sister Ann

Happy belated first Birthday to a sweet little girl Wabin-Juksh on January 28 daughter of Ms. Deborah Wapachee from Nemaska. With lots of love Charlotte & Brenda

I would like to wish a Happy 3rd birthday to twins Christina and Chris H. Belanger on Feb. 06/1995. God bless you both with love. Fr: Savannah and Gloria Jolly Waswanipi

Belated birthday to our baby daughter Claudine "Happy 16th Birthday." And many more happy returns! We love you and we'll always be there if you need us. Hugs & kisses love mom & dad Janie & Robert (Chisasibi)

Happy 3rd Birthday to my special daughter Savannah Jolly on the 21st of February 95. God bless you and keep you safe throughout the year. Love always Mommie Fr. Waswanipi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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Happy birthday to my two special sisters: Chickie Cooper on Feb. 8, 95 & to Sarah Taylor on Feb. 12, 95. Love you both. Fr: Linda Awashish

Belated Birthdays to our Nephew Peter Brian on Jan. 28 "Happy 10th Birthday" and to our Baby sister Claudine on Feb. 1st "Happy 16th Birthday." Sis remember the times we used to tease you and really get on your nerves. We're not finished yet. You're getting some more, so be ready. We love teasing you, cause you're our baby sister. We love you both. Hope your dreams come true. Love John, Lori & Judy (Chisasibi)

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Beverly Cox on Feb. 13. Best wishes on your birthday from the nanny!! Ha! Ha!

I want to wish a Happy First Birthday to our son Tyrone Longchap on Feb. 9. We love you so much! xxx mom & dad

Happy Birthday to Grandpa Joe Weistche from Waskaganish on February 17. Love always, Kristina V.S. Blackned xoxo

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Wow! A year has already gone by since you walked down that aisle, sis. Happy 1st Anniversary & Happy Birthday also on Feb. 25. Congratulations! Barry & Tanya Blackned in Waskaganish. Your big sis, Rachel

300-PERSONALS

Hey lover: wishing I could kiss you on your beautiful lips this Valentine's Day, your sweetpea

Wishing to communicate with Christine Salt, Marlene Weistche, Michelle Stephen in Waskaganish. Please call me: 418-923-2795. Fr. Linda Bosum Awashish

To the smartest & sweetest father and sexiest husband in the world. We adore you, love Catherine & Kataleen

To baby: Happy Valentines sweetie!!! Tee-hee purrr always yours, baby

Happy 1st Valentine's Day to an adorable and sweet grandson and nephew Henri Jo born: December 24/94. We love you so much. Love always grandma and aunties, Eva Stephanie & Frances Mistissini xoxoxoxo

Happy Valentine's Day to our neices Sonia and Nikki and to our nephew Bruno. We love you all so much!!! Hugs and kisses from aunties Stephanie & Frances Mistissini xoxoxoxo

Happy Valentine's Day and a big "hello" to my Doomagan Emily R. in Montreal (P.S. Take care) Love little Wabbagans in Mist. xoxoxo

To my Valentine Alex MacDo. I want to watch Barney with you and steal your bottle. I miss you. Your cousin, Kataleen.

A belated Happy Valentine's wish to one special guy! I want, need and love you for always my Joweesh. Sincerely, your friend & lover Jenny-poopoosh. xoxox

Happy Valentine's Day & Happy Birthday on the 20th Aipa!! xoxo etc. etc. from Neil

I would like to wish a Happy Valentine's Day to my parents and sisters and Brother in Mist. I miss you all oxoxox Fr. Paula in North Bay (Ont.)

Happy Valentine's Day to my parents and grandparents Allan & Jane Loon. Thank you for everything. We love you both so much. Love from: Natalie, Don & Natasha

Hi Chickie & Jimmy, Larrisa in Montreal, call us you guys. Haven't heard from you in a long time. I guess you are all busy studying. We miss you, Larrisa Cooper. Love: Charlie, Linda & children

To Katy: Will you be my Valentine? Love from you know who xoxox Hugs & kisses to my little Valentine Katy Love Alex

To Karen with a Y: why do I love you? Still don't know. What a cop-out eh? Happy Valentines Love as always, Will

Hey BURS: I still love you, a little bit. Happy V-day *x

WABIMEGUIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

thing to be doing. It gives me more confidence and this is good because as an artist you're very vulnerable because you've put your heart and soul on that canvas. When people accept it, it gives you courage to go on.

Lindy, what's the furthest north you were while selling?

When in my travels I've been to Chisasibi and Mistissini a few times and all the communities along the way. It's been well-received. The Friendship Centers have taken her art with great pride and re-ordered. For special occasions the Crees of northern Quebec have ordered the art as gifts to graduates. For example in one shot they ordered 80 limited editions framed.

Betty: That doesn't happened everyday though (laughter)...

It would be nice wouldn't it?

Lindy: Hey Will, it will happen (laughter all around once again)... I'm serious about selling her art. When she's painting we talk to that art. I've got to get a little of the old man in there. Set her straight you know (laughter)...

Betty:

There's a piece of the family in every picture. If it isn't my father it's my son. This is a family business.

To place an order for Wabimeguil's artwork call Lindy at (705) 273-3202 or fax 273-3337.



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- * **Cree School Board Post Secondary Offices**
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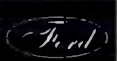


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This week, *The Nation* presents to its east coast readers the PQ government's "Guide to your Participation in the Commissions on the Future of Quebec" insert in English. In our next issue, the PQ government will offer this insert in the Cree language.

Watch for it. On the stands March 3, 1995.

